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NOTES

RECENT SCANDINAVIAN PUBLICATIONS.

For classes in modern Icelandic or for private study Heinrich Erkes' *Kurzer Deutsch-Neuisländischer Sprachführer mit Grammatik und Wörterverzeichnis* is recommended. It is published by Verlag von Fr. Wilh. Ruhfus, Dortmund.

An excellent book for elementary classes in Norwegian in college and school is J. A. Holvik's *Beginners' Book in Norse*. The Augsburg Publishing House, Minneapolis, Minnesota (1910). The essentials of the grammar are presented in LIX Lessons with exercises for reading, conversation and composition.

Gustaf af Geijerstam's *Mina Pojkar*, edited with Notes and Vocabulary by Joseph Alexis, Instructor in Swedish and German in Nebraska University, has been issued by the Augustana Book Concern, Rock Island, Illinois. It appears as Vol. I in "College and High School Series of Swedish Authors". *Mina Pojkar* is suitable for first year reading in college or second year in school.

A. Bonnier, Stockholm, will issue in the near future *Selections from Selma Lagerlöf's 'Nils Holgersson'* edited by Dr. A. Louis Elmquist. Dr. Elmquist also has in preparation an annotated edition of Runeberg's *Fänrik Ståls Sägner*, which will appear in "Bonnier's College Series of Swedish Text Books."

Dansk sproghistorisk Læsebog by Dr. Henrik Bertelsen, Copenhagen, published by Gyldenalske Boghandel (København, Kristiania), forms a most excellent handbook for University courses in Old and Middle Danish or in the History of the Danish Language. Part I deals with runic and medieval Danish (Oldtid og Middelalder, 400-1500). It contains texts, linguistic-historical survey, commentary and a vocabulary published in two small volumes, Pp. 174 and 159 respectively.

The new edition of Tegnér's *Frithiof's Saga* with Introduction, Bibliography and Explanatory Notes, published by the Engberg-Holmberg Co., Chicago, contains twenty-five full page colored engravings. The Bibliography has a complete list of all translations of the great Swedish masterpiece of which there are 26 in English and 25 in German alone. The latest English translation is that of Clement B. Shaw, Chicago, 1908.

Norsk Uttaleordbok by Ivar Alnæs, H. Aschehoug & Co., Kristiania, 1910, Pp. LXVII+144 is a pronouncing dictionary of 14,000 words as spoken according to the best cultured Norwegian of today. The orthography follows the authorized spelling of 1907. The editor

everywhere follows the sane principle of giving preference to the form that is Norwegian and at the same time the form that carries in itself the possibility of becoming most generally adopted (Preface IV). It may e. g. be noted that in such words as *regn* and *døgn*, the pronunciation *rengn* and *døngn* are given preference as opposed to the diphthongal *rein*, *døin*, for the reason that the former finds the greater justification in the living speech of the people. The work is heartily recommended to all students of Norwegian.

The most important recent contribution to Ibsen criticism is Dr. Wilhelm Hans's *Ibsens Selbstporträt in seinen Dramen*, Beck'sche Verlagsbuchhandlung, München, 1911, Pp. 220. The introductory chapter on "Ibsens Schaffensweise" is followed by a study of the dramas in chronological sequence with reference to the biographical element. The author handles a vast amount of material in a sane manner throwing new light on many problems that arise in the study of the dramas. The work will be a welcome addition to the library of every student of Ibsen.

Speeches and New Letters of Henrik Ibsen, Translated by Arne Kildal with an Introduction by Dr. Lee M. Hollander of the University of Wisconsin, published by The Gorham Press, Boston, 1910, contains ten speeches and a number of letters to Jonas Lie and others here for the first time printed in English. A "Chronological Bibliography of Ibsen", Pp. 121-202, adds value to the work.

A work on *Henrik Ibsen The Prophet of the Present*, by Professor Otto Heller, Washington University, St. Louis, is announced by The Houghton Mifflin Co. Another recent announcement is that August Strindberg's "The Dream Play", "The Link" and "The Dance of Death" in a single volume translated by Edwin Björkman is to be issued this month by the Scribners. The volume will contain an introduction also written by Björkman.

Bonniers Månadshäften for August, 1910, which was published as a "Fröding Nummer", contains appreciations of the since deceased poet by twelve Swedish writers, ten pictures of Gustaf Fröding at different periods of his life and other illustrative material. The principle article is entitled "Till Gustaf Frödings femtiårsdag" and is written by Ruben G:son Berg.

Bjørnstjerne Bjørnson, 1832-1910, published by A. C. McClurg & Co., Chicago, 1910, is the title of a brief but appreciative study of the great Norwegian poet and novelist by William Morton Payne. Part of the present work was published as a summary of Bjørnson's life and work in "The International Quarterly", March, 1903, to which is now added a fuller consideration of the writer's later productions.

Of all Scandinavian poets none would seem to oppose such insuperable obstacles in the path of the translator as Carl Michael Bellman. But the Swedish anacreon has recently received what must in general

be pronounced a well-executed rendering in *Carl Michael Bellman; Fredmans Episteln. Aus dem schwedischen übertragen*, von Felix Niedner. Jena, 1909. It appears in an edition of 2,000 copies and is printed in Gothic style type on antique paper, and bound in boards. The publisher is Eugen Diederichs.

In *National-forskeren P. A. Munch, hans Liv og Virke*, Chr. Brinchmann, archivist in the Norwegian Government Archives, has succeeded in presenting the life-story of this most wonderful personality in a clear and interesting way. The little volume aims to offer an easily intelligible survey of Munch's significance for Norwegian historical research. It is published by J. W. Cappelen, Christiania, and is illustrated with four full-page cuts of Munch and a facsimilie of his handwriting.

The Ancient Laws of Norway and Iceland by Halldor Hermannsson has been issued by The Cornell University Library, Ithaca, 1911, as Vol. 17 of *Islandica*. An Annual Relating to Iceland and the Fiske Icelandic Collection in Cornell University Library. Mr. Hermannsson published in 1910 a Bibliography of the Sagas of the Kings of Norway and related Sagas and Tales, and in 1908 a Bibliography of the Icelandic Sagas.

The last issue, Vol. III, of the *Year-Book of the Swedish Historical Society of America* contains among other good things an article by Prof. A. A. Stomberg on "Swedish in American Universities", one by Mr. G. A. Akerlind on "The Status of the Swedish Engineer in the United States, and a series of book reviews by Mr. Ernst W. Olson, who is the Society's editor. The objects of this society are to promote the study of the history of the Swedes in America, to collect a library and museum illustrating their development, to issue publications relating to the history of the Swedish people and to encourage the study of Swedish history and literature in American Universities. The headquarters of the Society is in Chicago; its President is Dr. Josua Lindahl.

En Bokhandelshistoria, efter tillgängliga källor tecknad af Ernst W. Olson. The Engberg-Holmberg Publishing Co., Chicago, tells the story of fifty years of Swedish book publishing by this well-known publishing house and its predecessors. It includes also the works printed by the Swedish Lutheran Publishing Society and thus forms a record of the major part of all Swedish books published in this country.

Professor K. Gjerset of Luther College is engaged in the writing of a *History of the Norwegian People* in the English language. The work when complete will be in two volumes of moderate size. It will be the author's plan to place before the American public the cultural development as well as the political history of the Norwegian people from the earliest times to the present. Such a work should be welcome

as there exists no adequate treatment in English at present. As the title indicates it will not be a history of Norway but a history of the Norwegian people and we especially welcome the emphasis on the cultural side.

"The Political Policies of Cnut as King of England" is the title of an article by Professor L. M. Larson, which appears in the *American Historical Review* XV, Pp. 720-743. Professor Larson's studies in the life and kingship of Cnut which will contain a large amount of new material relative to this hitherto inadequately interpreted period in English history will be published in The Heroes of the Nations Series, Putnam, New York.

In an article entitled "The Scandinavian Place-Names of Sutherland" which appears in *Old Lore Miscellany*, II, 213-226 and III, 14-21, Mr. James Gray publishes a list of 229 place-names of probable Norse origin in this one-time Norse settlement in Northern Scotland. The accompanying map shows that while these are present in all parts of the county, by far the larger number are found in the parishes along the coast; Durness, Tongue, Farr and Reay and in the eastern parishes that border upon Caithness. The whole list needs a more detailed phonological investigation however. A similar list for Caithness would be welcome. Eiríkr Magnússon's translation with notes of the Old Norse *Grottasongr* (The Song of the Quern Grotte) with photographic facsimile appears in *Old Lore Miscellany*, III, pages 139-150 and 237-253 and a similar study of the *Darraðarljóð*, pp. 78-94.

The 1911 number of *The Saga-Book of the Viking Club*, Society for Northern Research, contains the following articles: "Norse Elements in English Dialects" (Pp. 6-24) by George T. Flom, "Finds and excavations of Heathen Times in Iceland", (25-37), by Professor Finnur Jónsson and Mr. Daniel Bruun, "The Scandinavian Kingdom of Northumbria" (37-64), by Prof. Allen Mawer, "Odal Orkney" (85-100), by J. Storer Clouston, and an especially interesting one on "Miniatures from Icelandic Manuscripts" (111-126), by Dr. Harry Fett with eleven facsimiles of chapter initials illustrating the changing style of Icelandic art in the XIIIth and XIVth centuries. There is also (Pp. 65-84), a summary of Magnússon's translation of Runeberg's *Kung Fialar* with several selections from the text.

Gamalnorsk Ordbok med nynorsk Tyding ved Marius Hægstad og Alf Torp published by Det norske Samlaget (Landsmaalslaget), Kristiania, deserves to be widely known among students of Old Norse in this country. On account of the almost prohibitive price of the older larger dictionaries of Cleasby-Vigfusson (1 vol.) and Fritzner (3 vols.) this one, which sells for 10 Kroner, should be especially welcome. There is an Introduction of seventy pages on the history of Old Norwegian and Old Icelandic with brief texts illustrating the various dialects, West, North, East and South, down to 1350 and a survey of word-formation, in Old Norse.

Fragment RA. 58 C of Konongs Skuggsjá. From an Old Norwegian Parchment Cod of the XIIIth Century, with Heliotype Copy and a Study of the Paleography and the Language by George T. Flom appears as number 2 of Vol. IV, in the University Studies published by the Graduate College of the University of Illinois. The fragment of four leaves here published for the first time forms part of a valuable collection of reproductions of Old Norse manuscripts in the Sandinavian departmental library of the University of Illinois. One of these is a complete photographic copy of the main Ms. A. M. 243, a, Folio, of the Konungs Skuggsjá or Speculum Regale consisting of 68 leaves.

By the issue of numbers 15 and 16 of Adolfs Noreen's monumental work *Vart Språk, Ny svensk Grammatik i utförlig Framställning* volumes two and five are now complete. Volume II, 491 pages, deals with the descriptive phonology of Swedish, and Vol. V, 640 pages, deals with descriptive semasiology. In volume VI, the author will present the etymological semasiology of Swedish. The work, which will be in nine volumes, is a presentation of the facts of the grammar of a modern language on scientific principles not yet paralleled in any other modern language. It will be noted that nearly one-fourth of the work is devoted to the science of meanings. The Publishers are C. W. K. Gleerups Förlag, Lund.

The best and most exhaustive presentation of Norse and Germanic mythology is Richard M. Meyer's *Altgermanische Religionsgeschichte*, Quelle & Meyer, Leipzig, 1910, Pp. 645. The work which is dedicated to Axel Olrik and Edward Schroeder offers first a chapter on terms, methodology and the typical development of myths, the Indo-European heritage, the Germanic factor and sources. This is followed by chapters on Lower Mythology, Higher Mythology, The Cult, World Conception, History of Old Germanic Religion and Old Scandinavian Theology. The closing chapters offers a History of Germanic Mythology closing with a chronology of the significant dates and contributions to the advance of the science.

In *Altgermanische Grussformeln*, Halle, 1911, Pp. 40, Klara Stroebe presents in a doctorate thesis a study in old Germanic formulas of greeting. In Part I she offers a survey of the material from Old English, Old High German and Old Norse literature and in the second Part a grammatical-etymological analysis of the stems, which are represented by Gothic *gōljan*, Old Norse *kveðja* and *heilsa*, Old High German *gruozan* and *heilazen*, Old Saxon *queddian* and *grōtjan*, Old English *grētan* and Germanic *hailaz*, adjective (Old English, *hāl*, *wæs hāl*, Old Norse *heill*, *ves heill*) etc.

Maal og Minne, Norske Studier. Utgit av Bymaals-Laget ved Magnus Olsen, published three times a year since 1909, is devoted to research in Norwegian folklore and to short contributions upon Nor-

wegian dialects. In number 3, 1910, Dr. A. B. Larson outlines a plan for a systematic investigation of all Norwegian dialects, a field of research which has brought forth a number of valuable contributions in recent years and in which Dr. Larsen himself has published several monographs, recently one on the Dialect of Bergen (*Bergens Bymaal*).

An international Association of folklorists which has adopted the designation "FF" (Folklore Fellows, Folkeminde-Forskere, Fédération des Folkloristes, Folkloristischer Forscherbund) was organized in Copenhagen in 1907. Its object will be as the name indicates to bring more closely together the workers in folklore in all lands. Through it those who live far removed from the sources may secure copies or translations of manuscripts or material that is difficult of access. The membership fee is 10 francs a year. There will be two series of publications, an "International series" and a "Northern series", the latter will embrace the Scandinavian and the Finnish-Estonian material. The first volume in the Northern series is Hjalmar Thuren's *Folkesangen paa Færøerne* (the folksong in the Faeroe Islands). A volume on *Feroese Ballads with Themes from Norwegian History* by George T. Flom is in preparation. The Editorial Committee is Prof. Dr. Axel Olrik, Copenhagen, C. W. von Sydow, Ronneby, Sweden, and Kaarl Krohn, Helsingfors.

The youngest of Denmark's public museums is the "Dansk Folkemindesamling", the National Collection of Danish Folklore, which has its home in the new building of The Royal Library. The institution is the outgrowth of the initiative of Dr. H. F. Feilberg, whose private library of 3000 volumes on folklore also formed the nucleus of the present collection, which in addition now contains among other things 600 numbers of manuscripts. It was founded in 1905; its director is Dr. Axel Olrik, its secretary is Hjalmar Thuren and the treasurer is H. Grüner Nielsen. Among its treasures are the Svend Grundtvig collections, a mass of manuscripts left by Evald Tang Kristensen, and the Grundtvig-Bloch sixteen volume manuscript collection of Feroese ballads for the most part as yet unpublished. Published so far are *Dansk Folkemindesamling*, 1-2 by Axel Olrik, and *The System of Tales in the Folklore Collection of Copenhagen*, by Astrid Lunding. The following works are in preparation: *Julevættter* by Axel Olrik; *Alfetroen* by H. F. Feilberg; *Falstersk Bondeliv* by Fr. Grundtvig; *Sønderjyllands Folkesagn* by Carl Ludvigsen; *Dansen i de nordiske Lande* by Hj. Thuren; *Leg og Idræt*, by Fr. Kundsén; *Mit Samlerliv* by E. V. Kristensen.